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ABSTRACT

In spring 1988, a study was conducted at William Rainey Harper College (WRHC), Illinois, to gather follow-up information about graduates of the college's Dietetic Technician program. Questionnaires were mailed to the 16 students who graduated from the program in 1986 and 1987 and to the 76 former students who graduated prior to 1984. Information was requested on the graduates' employment and educational status, salary, experiences in finding their present job, relationship between their job and training, job satisfaction, professional activities, certification status, job duties and assessment of training to perform those duties, and work history. Study findings, based on a 75% response rate from the 1986 and 1987 graduates and a 68% response rate from the prior graduates, included the following: (1) among the pre-1984 graduates, over 75% were currently employed in a field related to dietetic technology and had been employed in those jobs for an average of just under 4 years; (2) of the 1986 and 1987 graduates, all were currently employed and 75% were working in a field related to their training; (3) the major source for finding a job for the 1986 and 1987 graduates was a newspaper ad, while in previous studies, the major placement resource was the coordinator of the Dietetic Technician program; (4) the graduates' salaries tended to be below those of other career alumni, however, all were very satisfied with their jobs; (5) graduates reported that they were very well prepared in the skill areas corresponding to the duties they most frequently performed; and (6) 25% of the recent graduates and 26% of the pre-1984 graduates had continued their education after leaving WRHC. The survey instrument is attached. (AYC)

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Office of Planning and Research

William Rainey Harper College

FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF DIETETIC TECH GRADUATES 1986 and 1987 - 1983 AND PRIOR

Volume XVII, No. 4
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Office of Planning and Research

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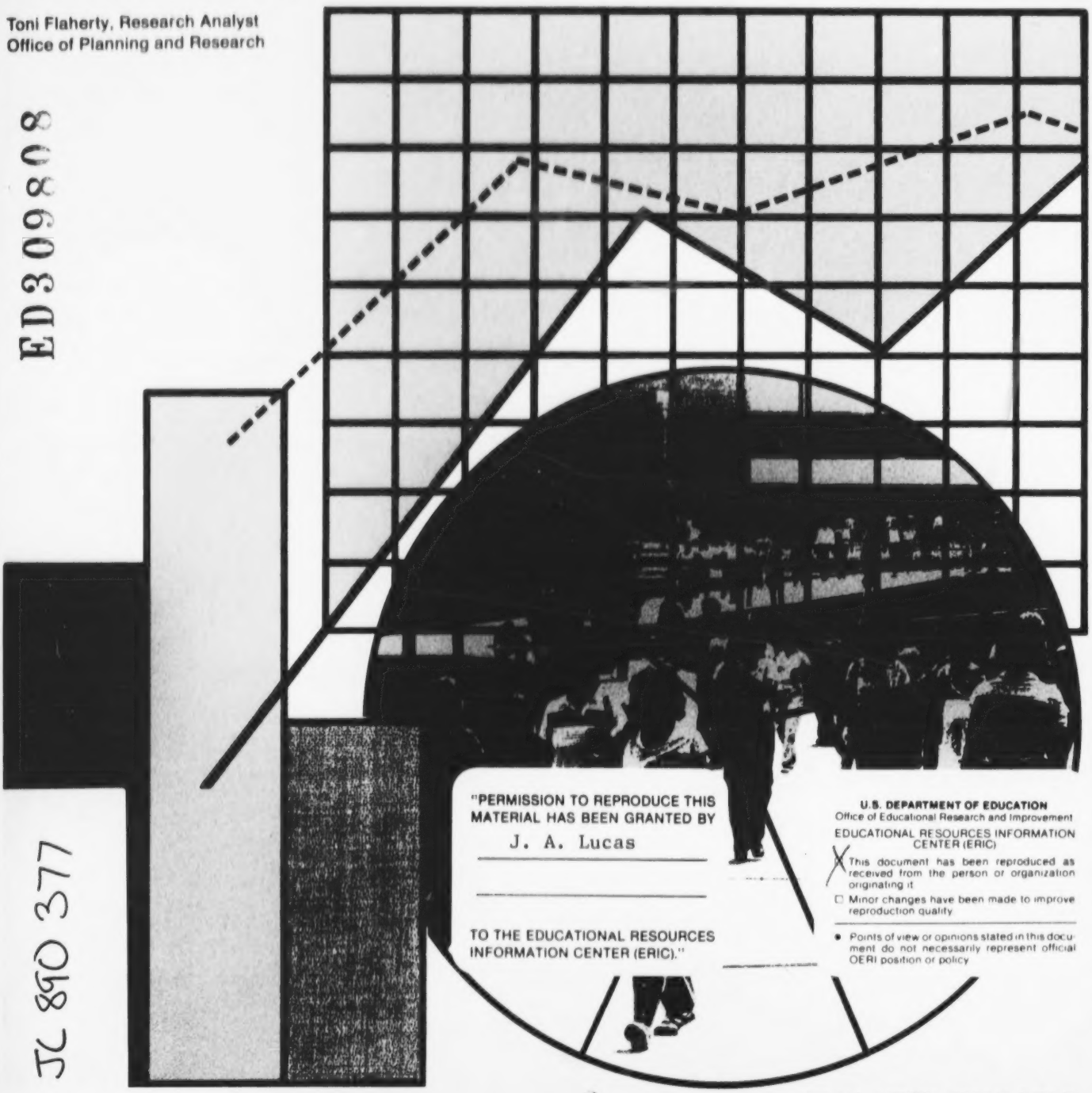

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ABSTRACT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY WAS TO FOLLOW UP THE 1986 AND 1987, AND THE 1983 AND PRIOR DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES, PARTIALLY TO EVALUATE THE DIETETIC TECHNICIAN PROGRAM AND PARTIALLY TO OBTAIN EXTERNALLY REQUIRED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM. A SURVEY INSTRUMENT WAS MAILED TO THESE GRADUATES AND AFTER SEVERAL FOLLOW UP EFFORTS, A 75 PERCENT RESPONSE RATE WAS OBTAINED FOR THE 1986 AND 1987 GRADUATES AND A 68 PERCENT RESPONSE RATE WAS OBTAINED FOR THE 1983 AND PRIOR GRADUATES SURVEYED.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY INDICATED THAT AMONG THE 1983 AND PRIOR DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES, OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF THOSE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED ARE WORKING IN A FIELD RELATED TO DIETETIC TECH AND HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN THESE JOBS FOR AN AVERAGE OF JUST UNDER FOUR YEARS. FOR THE 1986 AND 1987 GRADUATES, ALL ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AND THREE-QUARTERS ARE WORKING IN A FIELD RELATED TO DIETETIC TECHNICIAN. THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR THESE RECENT GRADUATES IS ELEVEN MONTHS.

THE MAJOR SOURCE FOR FINDING A JOB FOR THE 1986 AND 1987 DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES WAS THROUGH A NEWSPAPER AD. IN PAST STUDIES, THE MAJOR SOURCE HAD BEEN THROUGH THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR. THEIR SALARIES CONTINUE TO BE BELOW OTHER CAREER ALUMNI; HOWEVER, ALL ARE SATISFIED OR VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR JOB. GRADUATES ONCE AGAIN REPORT THEY ARE VERY WELL PREPARED IN THE SKILL AREAS THEY PERFORM MOST OFTEN. ONE-QUARTER OF THE 1986 AND 1987 GRADUATES AND A SLIGHTLY HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF 1983 AND PRIOR GRADUATES HAVE CONTINUED THEIR EDUCATION SINCE LEAVING HARPER.

EMPLOYERS SURVEYED WERE VERY POSITIVE ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF HARPER DIETETIC TECH GRADUATES.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this Dietetic Technician Graduates Follow up study was partially to evaluate the Dietetic Technician Program and partially to obtain externally required information about the program. The study was requested by the Dietetic Technician Program Coordinator, Jane Allendorph.

POPULATION SURVEYED

The sixteen 1986 and 1987 Dietetic Technician Program graduates were included in this study. A follow-up survey of the 1983 and prior graduates was also conducted to update their employment patterns.

	1981 Survey 1980 and Prior Grads		1986 Survey 1975-1985 Grads		1988 Survey 1986 & 87 Grads		1988 Survey 1983 and Prior Grads	
Response Situation	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Returned survey by mail	53	67.1	81	59.6	11	68.7	38	50.0
Answered survey questions on telephone	0	0	0	0	1	6.3	14	18.4
Total Responses	53	67.1	81	59.6	12	75.0	52	68.4
Refused to answer	1	1.3	0	0	0	0	3	3.9
Original mailing returned non-forwardable	7	8.8	31	22.8	1	6.3	11	14.5
Unable to reach by telephone	18	22.8	24	17.6	3	18.7	10	13.2
Total Non-Responses	26	32.9	55	40.4	4	25.0	24	31.6
TOTAL	79	100.0	136	100.0	16	100.0	76	100.0

These response rates are acceptable, especially when students surveyed have been away such a long period of time. This percentage will also insure against any response bias. In addition, thirteen employers of at least two Harper Dietetic Tech graduates were surveyed over the telephone with ten or 77 percent responding.

METHOD

The survey instruments shown in the appendix were developed jointly by the Coordinator of the Dietetic Technician Program, Jane Allendorph and the Office of Planning and Institutional Research. These instruments were mailed to all members of the target population along with the cover letter shown and a stamped return envelope. After four weeks, another survey instrument was mailed to those not responding. After another four weeks, those still not responding were telephoned and asked either to return the survey by mail or answer the questions over the telephone.

DETAILED RESULTS

After graduating from the Dietetic Technician Program at Harper, 60 percent of the 1983 and prior graduates were employed full time and a total of 73 percent were employed either full time or part time. The percentage of graduates employed full time or part time has remained fairly constant when compared to the 1981 survey of 1980 and prior graduates and the 1986 survey of 1975-1985 graduates. However, al-

DETAILED RESULTS (continued)

most 92 percent of the recent Dietetic Technician graduates surveyed (1986 and 1987 graduates) are currently employed full time while another 8 percent are employed part time. Also, only two of the 12 recent graduates responding to the survey had any difficulty in finding a job. These difficulties resulted from jobs being too far away or with agencies the student preferred not to work for.

Among those employed, 78 percent of the 1983 and prior graduates are working in a field related to dietetic tech and 75 percent of the recent grads are working in a field related to dietetic tech. Considering those working in a related field, over half of the earlier grads are working in hospitals while only 33 percent of the recent grads are working in hospitals. Another 10 percent of both groups surveyed are employed by health agencies and centers. While only 4 percent of the 1983 and prior graduates and 33 percent of the 1986 and 1987 graduates are employed by long-term care facilities and senior citizen residences. The remaining graduates who work in a related field are employed by food production companies or food service departments of other organizations.

The 1983 and prior graduates working full time have been on their job for an average of 40 months while those employed part time have been on their job for an average of 47 months. These percentages continue to be higher than experienced by graduates in earlier surveys. As for the recent graduates working full time, the average length of service is 11 months, since they have only been out of school a short while. .

Of the 1986 and 1987 graduates employed, about 33 percent found their jobs through a newspaper ad and 17 percent found their jobs through a contact made while in clinical lab courses or they were contacted by the employer. In past studies, the major source for finding a job was the program coordinator. However, only 8 percent of these graduates found their job through the program coordinator.

The average salary of those (women) graduates employed full time was $16,818 for the 1986 and 87 graduates which is an increase of 8.4 percent from the 1986 survey, but continues to be under the average of all career alumni (18% below the average salary of 1986 career alumni). The average salary for the 1983 and prior graduates was $18,500. Almost 93 percent of the 1986 and 87 graduates feel their jobs match their skills well and all of these graduates are satisfied with their jobs.

Three of the seven 1986 and 87 graduates responding to the survey are members of the American Dietetic Association. However, only one is an active member. There is about the same active involvement in the State Dietetic Association. Just under half of the recent dietetic technician graduates are Registered Dietetic Technicians and just over half of the 1983 and prior graduates are Registered Dietetic Technicians. The major reason cited for not being registered was because they were no longer employed as dietetic technicians.

Graduates of the program continue to feel they are very well prepared in skills central to the core of the Dietetic Technician Program and in skills which are often performed. The only areas in which the graduates feel they were less than adequately prepared are peripheral skills (such as collecting certain kinds of data, training, coordinating, and cost containment) which are seldom performed.

Since completing the AAS in Dietetic Technology, 25 percent of the 1986 and 1987 graduates and almost 35 percent of the 1983 and prior graduates responding to the survey have continued their education at a number of colleges and through workshop opportunities. Some have continued to take additional courses at Harper. Just over 17 percent have achieved a bachelor's degree. As in previous surveys, nutrition is the subject most often pursued.

DETAILED RESULTS (continued)

In looking at the employment patterns of the 1983 and prior graduates of the Dietetic Technician Program, all but one had been employed at some point since their graduation. Most (75%) have worked for only one or two employers since graduation and almost 80 percent have always worked in a related field. About 10 percent started working in a field related to dietetic technician and eventually switched to an unrelated field and another 10 percent never worked in a field related to dietetic technician. When asked if they had been promoted since graduating from Harper, 33 percent of those responding said they had been promoted by a single employer, 19 percent received promotions by changing employers and 48 percent were never promoted. Of those who received promotions, only one attributed the promotion directly to continuing education. Interestingly, only 38 percent of those receiving promotions had continued their education beyond Harper and 63 percent had no advanced education.

In surveying the employers, over half thought Harper graduates were very well qualified while the rest were rated as qualified in most areas. None rated Harper graduates as not well qualified. Some of the employers listed specific areas where Harper graduates needed further training but all listed specific strengths the graduates brought to the job. The median time required before a Harper graduate was fully able to perform the job was four weeks and this compares to seven weeks required for dietetic technicians hired from other backgrounds which were mostly four-year degree programs. All but one employer listed promotional opportunities but most of these required further education, experience, or testing. All the Harper graduates working with these employers were in clinical areas. The future demand for dietetic technicians as seen by these employers seems to be a steady state. Almost all the comments given by the employers about their experience with Harper graduates was positive with only one being mixed.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

Among the 1983 and prior Dietetic Technician graduates, over three-quarters of those currently employed are working in a field related to dietetic technician and have been employed in these jobs for an average of just under four years. For the 1986 and 1987 graduates, all are currently employed and three-quarters are working in a field related to dietetic technician. The average length of service for these recent graduates is eleven months.

The major source for finding a job for the 1986 and 1987 Dietetic Technician graduates was through a newspaper ad. In past studies, the major source had been through the program coordinator. Their salaries continue to be below other career alumni; however, all are satisfied or very satisfied with their job. Graduates once again report they are very well prepared in the skill areas they perform most often. One-quarter of the 1986 and 87 graduates and a slightly higher percentage of 1983 and prior graduates have continued their education since leaving Harper.

Employers surveyed were very positive about the performance of Harper Dietetic Tech Graduates.

Employment Status	1981 Survey 1980 & Prior Grads N	PCT	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Grads N	PCT	1988 Survey 1986 & 1987 Grads N	PCT	1983 & Prior Grads N	PCT
Employed full time	31	58.5	49	60.5	11	91.7	31	59.6
Employed part time	11	20.7	14	17.3	1	8.3	7	13.5
Not employed, but seeking employment	2	3.8	3	3.7	0	0	(	(
Not employed - homemaker	5	9.4	9	11.1	0	0	(14	(26.9
Not employed - other reasons	4	7.6	6	7.4	0	0	(	(
Total	53	100.0	81	100.0	12	100.0	52	100.0

FULL-TIME EMPLOYERS

Hospitals	1981 Survey 1980 and Prior Grads	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Grads	1988 Survey 1986 and 1987 Grads	1983 and Prior Grads
Delnor Community Hospital	0	0	1	1
Lutheran General Hospital	4	4	0	1
Elmhurst Memorial Hospital	1	2	0	1
Humana Hospital	2	1	1	0
St. Joseph Hospital	2	1	0	1
Alexian Brothers Medical Center	1	1	0	1
Holy Family Hospital	0	1	0	1
Geneva Community Hospital	0	1	0	0
Evanston Hospital	0	1	0	0
Glenbrook Hospital	0	1	0	1
Loyola University Med. Center	0	1	0	1
Lakeside Veterans Administration Medical Center	0	1	0	0
Great Lakes Naval Hospital	0	1	0	1
Condell Memorial	1	0	0	0
Swedish Medical Center - Seattle	1	0	0	0
Rush Presbyterian St. Lukes	1	0	0	0
DuPage Memorial Hospital	1	0	0	0
Veterans Administration - Hines	1	0	0	1
South Chicago Community	0	0	1	0
Child Allergy Hospital	0	0	0	1
Sherman Hospital	0	0	0	1
Total	15	16	3	12

Health Agencies and Centers	1981 Survey 1980 & Prior Grads	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Grads	1988 Survey 1986 & 1987 Grads	1988 Survey 1983 & Prior Grads
WIC Program - Lake County Health Department	1	2	1	0
Total Health, Inc.	0	1	0	0
WIC - Well Child Conference/Elgin	0	1	0	1
Upjohn Health Care Services Santa Cruz	1	0	0	0
Lake Cook Medical Association	0	0	0	1
Total	2	4	1	2
Long Term Care and Senior Citizen Residences				
Friendship Village	0	0	0	1
Northwest Community Care Center	0	0	1	0
Friendship Village	1	2	0	1
Lutheran Home and Services for the Aged	1	1	0	0
Lakeview Geriatric Centre	0	1	0	0
Brandel Care Center	0	1	0	0
Willow Point Nursing Home	0	1	0	0
Imperial Nursing Center	0	1	0	0
Lee Manor Nursing Home - Des Plaines	1	0	0	0
Cavestoll Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care - McHenry	1	0	0	0
Resurrection Nursing Pavilion	0	0	1	0
Total	4	7	2	2
Other Employers Where Employee is Working in Dietetic Related Field				
Kraft Inc.-Sensory Technician	0	3	1	3
Otto and Sons, Aurora - Quality Assurance	0	0	1	0
Riverside Public School District Cafeteria Manager, First Cook	0	1	0	0
Red Lobster - Dining Room Manager	0	1	0	0
Everything Yogurt - Kitchen Manager	0	1	0	0
United States Navy - Galley	1	0	0	0
Quaker Oats, Barrington	1	0	0	0
L.H. - Clinical Dietetic Technician	0	0	0	1
Kraft Inc. - Can Food Buyer	0	0	0	1
LGIT - Dietetic Technician	0	0	0	1
ARA, Inc., Philadelphia - Dietary Dir.	0	0	0	1
Peppercorns Catering-Service Rep.	0	0	0	1
United Airlines Widebody Kitchen Food-Service	0	0	0	1
Total	2	6	2	9

	1981 Survey 1980 & Prior Grads	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Grads	1988 Survey 1986-1987 Grads	1988 Survey 1983 & Prior Grads
Other Employers Where Employee is Working in Field Unrelated to Dietetic Tech				
Household Finance, Wooddale - Collector	0	0	1	0
K-Mart-Manager of Camera and Jewelry Department	0	1	0	0
Secretary of State-Public Service Representative	0	1	0	0
Northwest Orient Airlines - Reservation Sales Agent	0	1	0	0
Mountainview School - Elementary School Teacher	0	1	0	0
Cintas, Inc. - Lead Assembly	0	1	0	0
J.T.'s General Store - Warehouse Returns Processor	0	1	0	0
Kraft, Inc.	0	1	0	0
Romane/Rega, Inc. - Receptionist	0	1	0	0
Trade Insurance Services - P and C Assistant	0	1	0	0
Calkins and Co. - Customer Service Assistant	0	1	0	0
Self Employed Insurance Broker	0	1	0	0
United Airlines - FSE	0	1	0	0
Technical Publishing Company	1	0	0	0
Mohawk Finishing Products	1	0	0	0
Central Telephone Company, Des Plaines - Accounting Clerk	0	0	1	0
Allstate Insurance - Typist	0	0	1	0
EPB Design Center - Receptionist	0	0	0	1
LaPetite Academy, WA-Director	0	0	0	1
Automatic Switch Co. - Data Entry Operator	0	0	0	1
Keebler Co. - Secretary	0	0	0	1
Deerfield Public Library - Technical Services	0	0	0	1
District 15 - School Bus Driver	0	0	0	1
Childrens World Learning Center - Teacher	0	0	0	1
Total	2	12	3	7
Employers not specified	5	3	0	0
Total full-time employers	30	48	11	31

PART-TIME EMPLOYERS

	1981 Survey 1980 & Prior Grads	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Grads	1988 Survey 1986-1987 Grads	1988 Survey 1983 & Prior Grads
Hospitals				
Northwest Community Hospital	1	2	0	0
Humana Hospital	1	1	0	1
Westlake Community Hospital	0	1	0	0
Sherman Hospital	0	1	0	1
Alexian Brothers Medical Center	1	0	0	0
Parkside Lutheran Hospital	0	0	0	1
Glenbrook Hospital	0	0	0	1
Total	3	5	0	4
Health Agencies and Centers				
Holy Family Health Center	0	1	0	1
WIC Program - Lake County Health Department	0	1	0	0
Northwest Physicians for Women	0	1	0	0
American Health Care Center - Arlington Heights	1	0	0	0
Good Shepherd Professional Building	1	0	0	0
Total	2	3	0	1
Other Employers Where Employee is Working in Dietetic Related Field				
NIU Residence Hall - Catering Director	0	0	1	0
Harper College - Teaching DIT	0	1	0	0
West Central Development Corp., Iowa Child Care Food Program	0	1	0	1
Chicago Citywide College - Nutritional Educator	0	1	0	0
Ascension Church	1	0	0	0
TGI Fridays Restaurant	1	0	0	0
Child Care Center - Dietetic Technician	0	0	0	1
Total	2	3	1	2
Other Employers Where Employee is Working in Field Unrelated to Dietetic Tech				
Self Employed	0	1	0	0
Charles A. Stevens - Sales Consultant	0	1	0	0
Harper College Public Safety	1	0	0	0
House of Brides	1	0	0	0
Total	2	2	0	0
Employer not Specified	2	2	0	0
Total Part-Time Employers	13	15	1	7

FULL-TIME JOB TITLES

	1981 Survey 1980 & Prior Grads	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Grads	1988 Survey 1986 & 1987 Grads	1988 Survey 1983 & Prior Grads
Dietetic Identical Job Titles				
Dietetic Technician	16	14	6	10
Nutritional Aide	1	2	0	0
Administrative Dietetic Tech	0	1	0	0
Dietetic Assistant	0	1	0	0
Business Manager/Registered Dietitian	0	1	0	0
Diet Clerk	0	1	0	1
Certified Dietary Manager	0	1	0	0
Director of Dietary Services	1	0	0	1
Clinical Dietary Technician	0	0	0	1
Total	18	21	6	13
Job Titles Related to Dietetic Technician				
Quality Assurance Field Rep	0	0	1	0
Food Service Supervisor/Manager	2	7	0	2
Sensory Technician	2	3	1	3
Food Service Buyer	0	1	0	1
Food Service Worker	1	0	0	1
Service Coordinator	1	0	0	0
Food Production Supervisor	1	0	0	0
Can Food Buyer	0	0	0	1
Service Representative	0	0	0	1
Health Advocate	0	0	0	1
Total	7	11	2	10
Job Titles Unrelated to Dietetic Technician				
Accounting Clerk	0	0	1	0
General Office	1	1	0	0
Social Activities Director	1	1	0	0
Airlines FSE	0	1	0	0
Manager of Camera/Jewelry Department	0	1	0	0
Public Service Representative	0	1	0	0
Reservation Sales Agent	0	1	0	0
Elementary School Teacher	0	1	0	0
Lead Assembly	0	1	0	0
Warehouse-Returns Processor	0	1	0	0
P and C Assistant	0	1	0	0
Customer Service Assistant	0	1	0	0
Insurance Broker	0	1	0	0
Travel Agent	0	1	0	0
Reader Service Clerk	1	0	0	0
Cash Collection Agent	1	0	0	0
Typist	0	0	1	0
Finance Collector	0	0	1	0
Receptionist	0	0	0	1
School Director	0	0	0	1
Data Entry Operator	0	0	0	1
Secretary	0	0	0	1
Technical Services	0	0	0	1
Office Manager	0	0	0	1
School Bus Driver	0	0	0	1
Teacher	0	0	0	1
Total	4	13	3	8
Job Title Not Specified	1	4	0	0
Total Full Time Job Titles	30	49	11	31

PART-TIME JOB TITLES

	1981 Survey 1980 & Prior Grads	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Grads	1988 Survey 1986 & 1987 Grads	1988 Survey 1983 & Prior Grads
Dietetic Technician Identical Job Titles				
Dietetic Technician	4	5	0	4
Nutritional Educator	0	2	0	0
Child Care Food Program/ Nutritional Worker	0	1	0	1
Nutritional Aide	0	1	0	0
Dietetic Assistant	0	1	0	0
Nutritionist	0	0	0	1
Total	4	10	0	6
Job Titles Related to Dietetic Technician				
Catering Director	0	0	1	0
Food Service Worker	1	0	0	0
Rectory Cook	1	0	0	0
Diet Aide, Cook	1	0	0	0
Total	3	0	1	0
Job Titles Unrelated to Dietetic Technician				
Receptionist	0	1	0	0
Sales Consultant	0	1	0	0
Police Dispatcher	1	0	0	0
Bridal Consultant	1	0	0	0
Total	2	2	0	0
Job Title Not Specified	2	2	0	1
Total Part-Time Job Titles	11	14	1	7

LENGTH OF SERVICE AT PRESENT EMPLOYMENT FOR THOSE EMPLOYED FULL TIME

Months of Service	1981 Survey 1980 & Prior Grads	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Grads	1988 Survey 1986 & 1987 Grads	1988 Survey 1983 & Prior Grads
129	0	0	0	2
123	0	1	0	0
120	0	1	0	1
108	0	1	0	1
102	0	2	0	0
100	0	1	0	0
96	1	1	0	0
90	0	1	0	0
84	0	1	0	0
72	0	2	0	1
64	0	0	0	2
60	0	1	0	2
57	0	0	0	1
54	0	1	0	0
48	1	2	0	1
44	0	1	0	0
43	1	0	0	0
42	0	0	0	1
39	1	0	0	0
36	4	4	0	2
30	0	1	0	0
29	0	2	0	1
28	1	1	0	0
24.5	0	1	0	0
24	4	3	0	1
23	2	0	0	0
19	0	1	0	1
18	0	2	1	1
16	0	1	0	2
15	0	1	1	0
14	1	0	1	0
13	1	1	0	1
12	0	0	2	3
10	2	0	0	0
9	1	0	0	0
8	1	0	1	0
7	1	1	0	2
6	1	4	3	1
5	1	0	0	1
4	1	2	0	2
3	1	3	0	0
2	0	2	0	1
1.5	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	0
Total	27	48	9	31
Median Months of Service	23	26.3	12	24
Mean Months of Service	24.3	38.2	10.8	40

LENGTH OF SERVICE AT PRESENT EMPLOYMENT FOR THOSE EMPLOYED PART TIME

Months of Service	1981 Survey 1980 & Prior Grads	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Grads	1988 Survey 1986 & 1987 Grads	1988 Survey 1983 & Prior Grads
96	0	1	0	0
90	0	0	0	1
72	0	0	0	1
60	0	0	0	1
48	0	0	0	1
39	1	0	0	0
36	1	0	0	0
32	1	0	0	0
27	0	1	0	0
26	0	1	0	0
24	0	1	0	1
21	0	0	0	1
17.5	0	1	0	0
15	1	0	0	0
14	0	1	0	1
13	0	1	0	0
9	1	1	0	0
5	2	0	0	0
4	1	1	0	0
3	1	1	0	0
2	0	0	1	0
.25	0	1	0	0
Total	9	11	1	7
Median Months of Service	9	14	2	48
Mean Months of Service	16.4	21.3	2	47

RELATEDNESS OF PRESENT JOB TO A DIETETIC TECHNICIAN

Full-Time Employees

Degree of Relatedness	Relatedness	1981 Survey PCT	1986 Survey N	1986 Survey PCT	1988 Survey 86/87 Graduates N	1988 Survey 86/87 Graduates PCT	1988 Survey 1983 and Prior Grads N	1988 Survey 1983 and Prior Grads PCT
2	Identical	23.3	21	42.9	6	54.5	13	41.9
1	Related	46.7	12	24.5	2	18.2	10	32.3
0	Not Related	30.0	16	32.6	3	27.3	8	25.8
Total		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0
Sample Size		30	49		11		31	
Mean Degree of Relatedness		.93	1.10		1.27		1.16	

Part-Time Employees

Degree of Relatedness	Relatedness	1981 Survey PCT	1986 Survey N	1986 Survey PCT	1988 Survey 86/87 Graduates N	1988 Survey 86/87 Graduates PCT	1988 Survey 1983 and Prior Grads N	1988 Survey 1983 and Prior Grads PCT
2	Identical	20.0	10	71.4	0	0	6	100.0
1	Related	30.0	1	7.2	1	100.0	0	0
0	Not Related	50.0	3	21.4	0	0	0	0
Total		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0
Sample Size		10	14		1		6	
Mean Degree of Relatedness		.70	1.50		1.00		2.0	

Total Employed

Degree of Relatedness	Relatedness	1981 Survey PCT	1986 Survey N	1986 Survey PCT	1988 Survey 86/87 Graduates N	1988 Survey 86/87 Graduates PCT	1988 Survey 1983 and Prior Grads N	1988 Survey 1983 and Prior Grads PCT
2	Identical	22.5	31	49.2	6	50.0	19	51.4
1	Related	42.5	13	20.6	3	25.0	10	27.0
0	Not Related	35.0	19	30.2	3	25.0	8	21.6
Total		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0
Sample Size		40	63		12		37	
Mean Degree of Relatedness		.88	1.19		1.25		1.30	

Employment Patterns	1983 and Prior Graduates	
Number of Employers Since Graduation	N	PCT
0	1	1.9
1	21	40.4
2	18	34.6
3	9	17.3
4	3	5.8
Total	52	100.0
Relatedness of Jobs Held to Dietetic Technician		
Job(s) always related to Dietetic Tech	40	77.0
Job(s) always unrelated to Dietetic Tech	5	9.6
Job(s) related changed to job(s) unrelated	5	9.6
Job(s) unrelated changed to job(s) related	1	1.9
Never employed	1	1.9
Total	52	100.0

ANNUAL SALARY FOR THOSE EMPLOYED FULL TIME

					1988 Survey			
	1981 Survey		1986 Survey		86/87 Graduates		1983 and Prior Grads	
Salary Range	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Under $5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$ 5,000 - $ 6,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$ 7,000 - $ 7,999	1	3.6	0	0	0	0	0	0
$ 8,000 - $ 8,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$ 9,000 - $ 9,999	2	7.1	4	9.8	0	0	0	0
$10,000 - $10,999	3	10.7	1	2.4	1	9.1	2	6.5
$11,000 - $11,999	2	7.1	1	2.4	0	0	1	3.2
$12,000 - $14,999	19	67.9	15	36.6	3	27.3	7	22.6
$15,000 - $17,999	1	3.6	9	22.0	2	18.2	5	16.1
$18,000 - $20,999	0	0	8	19.5	4	36.3	7	22.6
$21,000 - $24,999	0	0	3	7.3	1	9.1	7	22.6
$25,000 - $30,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	3.2
Over $30,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	3.2
Total	28	100.0	41	100.0	11	100.0	31	100.0
Mean Salary	$12,643		$15,512		$16,818		$18,370	
Median Salary	$13,026		$14,900		$16,500		$18,000	

HOURLY RATE OF THOSE EMPLOYED PART TIME

	1981 Survey 1980 and Prior Grads	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Graduates	1988 Survey 1986-1987 Graduates	1988 Survey 1983 and Prior Grads
Hourly Rate				
$8.75	0	1	0	0
$7.88	0	0	0	1
$7.50	0	0	0	1
$7.35	1	0	0	0
$7.26	0	1	0	0
$7.03	0	0	0	1
$7.00	0	1	0	1
$6.83	0	0	0	1
$6.60	0	1	0	0
$6.52	0	1	0	0
$6.25	1	0	0	0
$6.07	0	1	0	0
$6.00	1	0	0	1
$5.77	0	1	0	0
$5.56	1	0	0	0
$5.52	0	1	0	0
$5.50	0	1	0	0
$5.40	0	0	0	1
$5.00	1	0	0	0
$4.90	1	0	0	0
$4.85	0	1	0	0
$4.25	0	1	0	0
$4.10	1	0	0	0
$4.00	1	0	0	0
$3.90	1	0	0	0
$3.60	0	0	1	0
Total	9	11	1	7
Median Hourly Rate	$5.00	$6.07	$3.60	$7.00
Mean Hourly Rate	$5.23	$6.19	$3.60	$6.81

HOW FORMER STUDENTS FOUND JOBS

1981 Survey -- 1980 and Prior Graduates

Method	F/T Empl. N	F/T Empl. PCT	P/T Empl. N	P/T Empl. PCT	Total Empl. N	Total Empl. PCT
The Coordinator, Mrs. Gebert Helped	7	25.0	.5	6.3	7.5	20.8
Found job on their own	4	14.3	3	37.5	7	19.4
Newspaper Ad	4	14.3	1	12.5	5	13.9
Clinical Instructor or contact	2.5	8.9	2.5	31.2	5	13.9
Friend or relative	4.5	16.1	0	0	4.5	12.5
Was already working for employer entered Harper	3	10.7	0	0	3	8.3
Placement service at another college	0	0	1	12.5	1	2.8
HIEFSS Contact	1	3.6	0	0	1	2.8
ADA Contact	1	3.6	0	0	1	2.8
Class Assignment Contact	1	3.5	0	0	1	2.8
Sub-total	28	100.0	8	100.0	36	100.0
Did not respond to item	3		3		6	
Total	31		11		42	

HOW FORMER STUDENTS FOUND JOBS (continued)

1986 Survey -- 1975-1985 Graduates

Method	F/T Empl.		P/T Empl.		Total Empl.	
	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
The Coor. of the program helped	11	25.6	2	18.2	13	24.1
Newspaper Ad	8	18.6	3	27.2	11	20.4
A friend	8	18.6	1	9.1	9	16.7
Employed with the organization while enrolled at Harper	6	14.0	2	18.2	8	14.8
A contact made in the clinical lab	4	9.3	1	9.1	5	9.2
Applied on their own	3	7.0	1	9.1	4	7.4
Bulletin board at Harper advertising job	2	4.6	0	0	2	3.7
Another college's placement service	1	2.3	0	0	1	1.9
Networking	0	0	1	9.1	1	1.8
Total	43	100.0	11	100.0	54	100.0

1988 Survey --1986-1987 Graduates

Method	F/T Empl.		P/T Empl.		Total Empl.	
	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Newspaper ad	4	36.3	0	0	4	33.3
A contact made in clinical lab	2	18.2	0	0	2	16.7
Contacted by employer while at present college	1	9.1	1	100.0	2	16.7
The coordinator of the program helped me	1	9.1	0	0	1	8.3
Employed with organization while enrolled at Harper	1	9.1	0	0	1	8.3
A friend	1	9.1	0	0	1	8.4
Ill. State Employment Service	1	9.1	0	0	1	8.3
Total	11	100.0	1	100.0	12	100.0

DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A JOB

1981 Survey -- 1980 and Prior Graduates

Difficulty Description	F/T Empl.		P.T Empl.		Total Empl.	
	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Had job lined up before graduation	10	33.3	3	42.9	13	35.1
Found job easily after graduation	16	53.4	3	42.8	19	51.4
Found a job, but only with much difficulty	4	13.3	1	14.3	5	13.5
Sub-total	30	100.0	7	100.0	37	100.0
Did not respond to item	1	3.2	4	36.4	5	11.9
Total	31		11		42	

Reasons for having difficulty finding a job	N
No interest in jobs in Chicago	2
Not interested at this time in a nursing home job	1
Not interested at this time in a hospital job	1
No reason given	1
Total	5

DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A JOB (CONTINUED)

	1986 Survey -- 1975-1985 Graduates					
	F/T Empl.		P/T Empl.		Total Empl.	
Difficulty Description	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Had job lined up before graduation	15	32.6	4	44.5	19	34.5
Found job easily after graduation	23	50.0	2	22.2	25	45.5
Found job, but only with difficulty	8	17.4	3	33.3	11	20.0
Total	46	100.0	9	100.0	55	100.0

Reasons for having difficulty finding a job	N
Married - unable to relocate	4
Not interested at this time in a hospital job	4
Not interested at this time in a nursing home job	4
Not interested in jobs in Chicago	4
Do not live within commuting distance of a hospital or health care agency where there are jobs	1

	1988 Survey -- 1986 and 1987 Graduates					
	F/T Empl.		P/T Empl.		Total Empl.	
Difficulty Description	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Had job lined up before graduation	3	27.3	0	0	3	25.0
Found job easily after graduation	6	54.5	1	100.0	7	58.3
Found job, but only with difficulty	2	18.2	0	0	2	16.7
Total	11	100.0	1	100.0	12	100.0

Reasons for having difficulty finding a job	N
Do not live within commuting distance of a hospital or other health care agency where there are jobs	1
Not interested at this time in a hospital job	1
Not interested at this time in a nursing home job	1
Not many facilities want inexperienced diet technicians	1

DEGREE TO WHICH JOB MATCHES STUDENT PREPARATION

For those whose present job is closely related to a diet tech	1981 Survey 1980 & Prior Graduates PCT	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Graduates PCT	1988 Survey 1986 & 1987 Graduates PCT
Student feel job allows them to practice the skills for which they were prepared	70.0	78.8	92.9
Students feel underemployed - they feel they are prepared to more duties than they do on present job	30.0	21.2	7.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sample Size	25	33	7

For those whose present job is closely related
to a Dietetic Technician --- 1981 Survey - 1980 and Prior Graduates

Jobs which students feel they are prepared
to do but cannot do on present job

Check menus, do meal rounds, carry out simple diet instructions, visit diabetics, etc.
Counsel on a variety of diets.
Order and receive merchandise, modify menus, most office duties and patient diet instruction, etc.
Perform diet counseling and instructions only when there is time -- otherwise, do diet clerk duties, because we need the help. Boss tries to let me do diet counseling as much as possible.
More teaching skills could be used. Would like to teach diabetic education classes and do some part-time instruction.
Diet histories, calculating diet patterns, caloric counts, and some instruction.
Training was geared more to the diet office and working with patients - am now doing only kitchen aide duties.

For those whose present job is closely related
to a Dietetic Technician -- 1986 Survey - 1975-1985 Graduates

Jobs which students feel they are prepared to
do but cannot do on present job

The technicians at Lutheran General Hospital do much more work than technicians at other hospitals. We do much more assessment work to help the nutritionists. I do not feel that an entry level technician would be capable of doing our job.
I work in wellness therapeutic and clinical not being applied.
At this point I have no patient contact.
Diet instructions, assessments, (nutritional care) (diet histories), documentations in medical records.
Sometimes I do not do as much as I was trained for. I do a lot of clerical work.

For those whose present job is closely related to a
Dietetic Technician -- 1988 Survey - 1986-1987 Graduates

Not a diet technician but work for a food company and check for quality assurance.

1986 Graduates - Four are registered dietetic technicians
One is not a registered dietetic technician because she is not a dietetic technician. Her job does not require it and it is too expensive

1987 Graduates - One answered and they reported taking the national examination to become a registered dietetic technician and passed it.

Satisfaction on present job

For those whose present job is closely related a dietetic technician	Satisfaction Index	1981 Survey 1980 & Prior Graduates N	1981 Survey 1980 & Prior Graduates PCT	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Graduates N	1986 Survey 1975-1985 Graduates PCT	1988 Survey 1986 & 1987 Graduates N	1988 Survey 1986 & 1987 Graduates PCT
Very satisfied	+2	9	34.6	16	45.7	5	71.4
Satisfied	+1	13	50.0	16	45.7	2	28.6
Bearable	0	3	11.5	0	0	0	0
Dissatisfied/looking for other employment	-1	1	3.9	3	8.6	0	0
Total		26	100.0	35	100.0	7	100.0
Mean satisfaction Index		+1.15		+1.37		+1.71	

Involvement in Professional Activities

For those whose present job is closely related a dietetic technician	Active Member N	Active Member PCT	Pay Dues Only N	Pay Dues Only PCT	Not a Member N	Not a Member PCT	Total N	Total PCT
1981 Survey - 1980 & Prior								
American Dietetic Assoc.	4	15.4	13	50.0	9	34.6	26	100
Local Dietetic Assoc.	6	23.1	2	7.7	18	69.2	26	100
Ill. Dietetic Assoc.	1	3.8	4	15.4	21	80.8	26	100
HIEFSS	3	11.5	0	0	23	88.5	26	100
HIEFSS - Certified Tech.	3	11.5	0	0	23	88.5	26	100
1986 Survey - 1975-1985 Grads								
American Dietetic Assoc.	4	12.1	16	48.5	13	39.4	33	100
State Dietetic Assoc.	4	14.8	4	14.8	19	70.4	27	100
DMA - Dietary Managers Assoc.	1	4.3	1	4.4	21	91.3	23	100
DMA - Certified	2	8.7	0	0	21	91.3	23	100
1988 Survey - 1986 & 1987 Grads								
American Dietetic Assoc.	1	14.3	2	28.6	4	57.1	7	100
State Dietetic Assoc.	1	14.3	1	14.3	5	71.4	7	100
DMA - Dietary Managers Assoc.	0	0	0	0	7	100.0	7	100
DMA - Certified	0	0	0	0	7	100.0	7	100
Lake County Home Ec. Assoc.	1	14.3	0	0	6	85.7	7	100
National Home Ec. Assoc.	0	0	1	14.3	6	85.7	7	100

Degree to which students are prepared for various job responsibilities and frequencies these jobs are undertaken

Responsibility	N	Degree of Preparedness	Percent Inadequately Prepared	N	Degree of Frequency**	Percent Never Perform this duty
Assures implementation of nutrition prescriptions for individual clients/patients (e.g. checking menus, diet orders, trays, nourishments).	8	1.63	0	8	1.50	25.0
Obtains nutritionally relevant data from medical history of individual client/patient at direction of dietitian.	8	1.75	0	8	1.38	25.0
Obtains nutrition or diet history from individual client/patient at direction of dietitian.	8	1.88	0	8	1.38	25.0
Writes menus for individual clients/patients in accordance with a diet pattern, including making appropriate substitutions.	7	1.71	0	8	1.00	37.5
Documents nutrition-related data in medical record (where regulations permit) or in records of clinical dietetic department at the direction of dietitian.	8	1.75	0	8	1.50	12.5
Promotes positive working relationships with others whose work relates to area of responsibility.	8	1.88	0	8	1.88	0
Determines appropriate source(s) of specific nutrients (e.g. food, food products) for individual clients/patients.	8	1.88	0	8	1.50	12.5
Monitors food quality based on established criteria.	7	1.71	0	8	1.38	25.0
Checks trays routinely for accuracy.	6	1.83	0	8	1.13	37.5
Evaluates individual clients/patients acceptance or tolerance of food.	6	1.67	0	6	1.33	16.7

Degree to which students are prepared for various job responsibilities and frequencies these jobs are undertaken (continued)

Responsibility	N	Degree of Preparedness*	Percent Inadequately prepared	N	Degree of Frequency**	Percent never perform this duty
Reviews menus for client/patient acceptance.	7	1.86	0	8	1.50	25.0
Conducts patient satisfaction/food acceptance interviews.	6	1.67	0	8	1.13	37.5
Identifies individuals with specific nutritional needs from total client/patient population using predetermined criteria.	8	1.50	12.5	8	1.38	25.0
Develops diet patterns for individual clients/patients	7	1.57	0	8	.88	37.5
Calculates nutrient and energy intake values (e.g. information from 24-hour recall, diet history) for individual client/patient at the direction of the dietitian.	8	1.88	0	8	1.00	37.5
Monitors individual client/patient compliance with or tolerance of diet prescriptions at the direction of the dietitian.	8	1.63	0	8	1.38	12.5
Designs nutrition care plans (e.g. specifying diet, counseling) for individual clients/patients at direction of the dietitian.	8	1.50	0	8	1.13	37.5
Documents nutrition care plans for individual clients/patients in the medical record (where regulations permit) or in records of clinical dietetic department at direction of the dietitian.	8	1.63	0	8	1.38	25.0
Communicates plan for nutrition care to individual clients/patient's family at the direction of dietitian.	7	1.43	0	7	1.14	28.6

Degree to which students are prepared for various job responsibilities and frequencies these jobs are undertaken (continued)

Responsibility	N	Degree of preparedness*	Percent inadequately prepared	N	Degree of frequency**	Percent never perform this duty
Obtains nutritionally relevant demographic data (e.g. age, socioeconomic background) from individual clients/ patients at the direction of the dietitian.	8	1.75	0	8	1.13	37.5
Communicates with health team (e.g. physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers) on clients/patients nutritional care.	8	1.75	0	8	1.38	25.0
Obtains relevant data regarding individual client/ patient response to food (e.g., plate waste, calorie count).	7	1.71	0	8	1.38	12.5
Communicates to appropriate personnel (e.g. food service, nursing, pharmacy, central supply) the specific actions required to implement individual client's/ patient's nutrition care plan at the direction of dietitian.	8	1.75	0	8	1.50	12.5
Documents nutritional care of individual clients/ patients in the medical record (where regulations permit) or in records of clinical dietetic department	8	1.63	0	8	1.50	12.5
Communicates plan for individual clients/patients nutritional care to health team members at direction of the dietitian.	8	1.25	12.5	8	1.13	37.5
Monitors outcomes of nutrition care for individual clients/patients at the direction of dietitian.	8	1.50	0	8	1.38	25.0
Revises nutrition care plan for individual clients/ patients at the direction of the dietitian.	8	1.50	0	8	1.38	25.0

Degree to which students are prepared for various job responsibilities and frequencies these jobs are undertaken (continued)

Responsibility	N	Degree of preparedness*	Percent inadequately prepared	N	Degree of frequency**	Percent never perform this duty
Obtains nutritionally relevant laboratory data (e.g. complete blood count, serum cholesterol) from medical record for individual client/patient at direction of the dietitian.	8	1.50	12.5	8	1.25	25.0
Provides technical support for implementing and maintaining nutrition education processes (e.g. maintains files of materials for dissemination).	7	1.57	0	8	1.13	25.0
Documents individual client's/patient's response to nutrition education in the medical record (where regulations permit) or in the records of clinical dietetic department at direction of dietitian.	7	1.43	14.3	8	.75	62.5
Schedules nutrition education for clients/patients including time, place and personnel	7	1.29	14.3	8	.75	37.5
Selects nutrition education materials or exhibits for clients/patients.	7	1.43	14.3	8	.88	37.5
Arranges for follow-up or terminates nutrition care of individual clients/patients in consultation with dietitian.	7	1.29	14.3	8	1.00	50.0
Counsels individual clients/patients or small groups concerning nutrition concepts and desired change in eating habits.	7	1.57	0	8	.88	37.5
Present classes and lectures in basic nutrition to small groups of clients/patients according to established plan.	7	1.29	14.3	8	.75	62.5

Degree to which students are prepared for various job responsibilities and frequencies these jobs are undertaken (continued)

Responsibility	N	Degree of preparedness*	Percent inadequately prepared	N	Degree of frequency**	Percent never perform this duty
Evaluates effectiveness of nutrition education events for clients/patients.	7	1.29	14.3	8	.50	75.0
Evaluates performance of support personnel assigned to clinical dietetic functions.	7	1.00	42.9	8	.38	75.0
Implements quality assurance program procedures for patient care and delivery of nutritional services to clients/patients.	7	1.57	0	8	1.25	25.0
Supervises support personnel assigned to clinical dietetic functions.	7	1.14	28.6	8	.63	62.5
Collects quality assurance program data at the direction of dietitian.	8	1.75	0	8	1.63	0
Informs health care team in consultation with a dietitian about laws, regulations, and professional guidelines related to nutrition care.	6	1.00	33.3	8	.63	62.5
Implements orientation/ training program for support personnel assigned to clinical dietetic functions.	7	1.14	28.6	8	.63	62.5
Obtains nutritionally relevant anthropometric (body) measurement) data from individual clients/patients at direction of dietitian.	7	1.29	14.3	8	1.13	37.5
Maintains cost-containment processes (e.g. productivity measures, staffing, allocations of food and supplies) while preserving quality.	6	1.17	33.3	8	1.00	50.0

Degree to which students are prepared for various job responsibilities and frequencies these jobs are undertaken (continued)

	N	Degree of preparedness*	Percent inadequately prepared	N	Degree of preparedness**	Percent never perform this duty
Obtains information regarding programs and/or sources of outside funding related to the provision of nutrition care for individual clients/patients in consultation with dietitian.	6	.67	50.0	8	.13	87.5
Obtains information on nutrition related legislative issues.	6	.50	50.0	8	.63	62.5
Collects data for analysis of costs and benefits of nutrition intervention.	7	1.00	42.9	8	.63	62.5

* Scale of degree of preparedness: 0 = inadequately prepared
1 = adequately prepared 2 = very well prepared

** Scale of degree of preparedness: 0 = never perform this duty
1 = perform this duty occasionally 2 = perform this duty often

CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION

	1981 Survey		1986 Survey	
	1980 & Prior Grads		1975-1985 Grads	
	N	PCT	N	PCT
Graduates who have continued their education at another college since leaving Harper	13	24.5	21	25.9
Graduates who have taken professional workshops or in-service training since leaving Harper	6	11.3	7	8.6
Graduates of the Dietetic Technician Program who have taken additional courses at Harper	7	13.2	8	9.9
Graduates who have not continued their education since leaving Harper	27	51.0	45	55.6
Total	53	100.0	81	100.0

CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION (continued)

	1988 Survey 1986 & 1987 Grads N	PCT	1988 Survey 1983 & Prior Grads N	PCT
Graduates who have continued their education at another college since leaving Harper	2	16.7	15	30.6
Graduates who have taken professional workshops or in-service training since leaving Harper	1	8.3	2	4.1
Graduates of the Dietetic Technician Program who have taken additional courses at Harper	3	25.0	4	8.2
Graduates who have not continued their education since leaving Harper	6	50.0	28	57.1
	12	100.0	49	100.0

Last college attended after leaving Harper

Last college attended after leaving Harper	1981 Survey N	1986 Survey N	1988 Survey N	1988 (1983 & Prior) N
Northern Illinois University	4	4	1	4
Mundelein College	1	2	0	0
Oakton Community College	0	2	0	0
California State University	0	0	0	1
Vitebro College	1	1	0	1
Northeastern Illinois University	1	1	0	0
Moberly Area Junior College	1	1	0	1
SIU - Carbondale	0	0	0	1
Elmhurst College	1	1	0	1
Triton	1	1	0	2
Mundelein	0	0	0	1
University of Illinois/Circle	1	1	0	0
Seattle Pacific University	0	1	0	1
Nat'l College/Evanston	0	0	0	1
College of DuPage	0	1	0	0
Peoria	0	1	0	0
Western Illinois University	0	0	0	1
Broome Community College	0	1	0	0
Ulpan	0	1	0	0
University of Tennessee	0	1	0	0
Chicago State	0	1	0	0
University of Illinois/Champaign	1	0	0	0
Virginia Polytechnic Institute	1	0	0	0
Hamburger University	0	0	1	0
Total	13	21	2	15

Major field at new college

Nutrition	3.5	9.5	1	3
Dietetics	2.5	3	0	1
Chemistry/Math/Science	.5	1-5/6	0	0
Business	1.5	1.5	0	2
Micro-Economics	0	0	0	1
Computers	0	1-1/3	0	0
Law	0	1-1/3	0	0
Liberal Arts	0	0	0	1
Jewish History/Language	.5	1	0	0
English	0	.5	0	0
HEC	0	0	0	1
Education	0	.5	0	2
Art	1	.5	0	1
Food Service/Sanitation	1	0	1	1
Medical Assisting	0	0	0	1
Nursing	1	0	0	0
Aging	.5	0	0	0
Behavioral Science	0	0	0	1
A CUP program	1	0	0	0
Total	13	21	2	15

Workshop or in-service training topics at new place of employment

1981 Survey (1980 and Prior Grads)

-- Northern Illinois HIEFSS Society seminars, workshops and ADA spring and fall workshops.
ADA nutritional assessment
Activity workshops - Rockford - 36 hours taught by professionals in field
Lutheran General Hospital in-service topics, such as internal and parental products, diabetic counseling, ostomy care, drug and nutrient interaction, nutrition and cancer patients, renal patients, hyperalimentation nutritional assessment
Lutheran General Hospital dietetic workshop
Hines Hospital - new diet changes

1986 Survey (1975-1985 Graduates)

-- International and gourmet shopping
Attended a menu planning seminar/food show and several in-services sponsored by social services within the health center.
St. Joseph Hospital - attend 6 or so in-service sessions per year
Wilton Enterprises - beginning and advanced cake decorating
Dietary Manager Association workshops and seminars and food service industry shows and seminars
Nutrition for the elderly
Arlington Hilton - coping strategies, Illinois Masonic Hospital - nutrition and cancer patients, dietetic tech workshops - eating problems resulting from cancer treatment

Workshop or in-service training topics at new place of employment (continued)

1988 Survey (1986-1987 Graduates)	-- Nutrition care plan Group nutrition education Infant, child, nutrition education poster session, in-service, poverty, counseling before Mom. Topics: the function of protein, iron, fat, carbohydrates, UIT A and C and calcium, the key. Nutrients, beans, cooking, storage and kinds - weight control - sugar cube display sugar content in favorite foods - introduction to computers and use with WIC. Breast feeding, counseling supply and storage B milk - nutritional assessment and counseling techniques Nutrition update - Chicago Nutrition Association, Eric Hentges, PhD - Associate Dir. for Research and Nutrition National live stock and meat board - topic: Exploring meat & health/discusses percent of fat in meat today vs. 1950 Food additives - Jan Rich, RD, Lifestyle Center, Lake Forest Hospital
1988 Survey (1983 & Prior Graduates)	-- ADA Workshops Unspecified Seminars

Additional courses taken at Harper after graduating from Dietetic Technician Program

1981 Survey (1980 & Prior Graduates)	-- Medical terminology - 2 Introduction to human disease (biology) Assertive communication Working toward an A.S. degree Completed food service certificate Chemistry, biology and mathematics Management, philosophy and Spanish
1986 Survey (1975-1985 Graduates)	-- Food services/purchasing Chemistry Fitness for Adults Data Processing Dietetic Tech Workshops Science Hospitality Law and Risk Management
1988 Survey (1986 & 1987 Graduates)	-- Dietetic Tech Seminars - 2 Word Processing - 1
1988 Survey (1983 & Prior Graduates	-- Nursing Spanish Language Food/Beverage Management Dietetic Tech Workshops

	1983 and Prior Graduates	
Registered Dietetic Technician	N	PCT
Yes	29	55.8
No	23	44.2

TELEPHONE SURVEY OF TEN OF THIRTEEN EMPLOYERS OF HARPER DIETETIC TECH GRADUATES

A- Degree qualified for job

	N	PCT
Very qualified - ready for work immediately	5.5	55.0
Qualified in most areas but need some further training	4.5	45.0
Not well qualified	0	0
Total	10	100.0

Areas in which more training is needed

- More training in different diets
- Further training in diabetics. More ability to calculate meal plans with accuracy and speed.
- Individualized training for specific needs of employer.
- More familiarity with computers.
- Organizational skills - was a slow learner.

B- Strengths that Harper graduates bring to the job

- Student clinical experience was very helpful. Fit in very well

- Strong in clinical knowledge, accurate and good clinical training
- Good background
- Well rounded background - Good idea on how a hospital operates
- Very professional - good background
- Consistency, very knowledgeable and well trained
- Knowledge of menus and modified diets
- Strong scientific knowledge and professionalism
- Clinical training
- Good knowledge of nutrition

C- Training time required before a Harper graduate is fully able to perform the job

Length of time	N	PCT
2 weeks	4	40.0
3-4 weeks	1	10.0
4 weeks	1	10.0
6 weeks	1	10.0
3 months	1	10.0
1-6 months*	1	10.0
3-6 months	1	10.0
Total	10	100.0

*Depends if their clinical was with this employer or not

Median time needed -- 4 weeks

Mean time needed -- 6.9 weeks

D- **Promotional opportunities available for dietetic technicians**

- Food Service Supervisor - 2
- Supervisory - 2
- Merit/performance increase
- Dietitian
- More duties, expanding responsibilities
- Different levels of technicians
- Four levels of technicians, technician supervisor, scientist
- None

E- **Further education required for a promotion**

- No - 2
- More training
- More supervision classes
- Yes, seminars
- Back to school for RD - food service experience
- Registered
- On-the-job training and experience - 4-year degree for scientist
- Seminars - continued training

F- **From what other background besides Harper are dietetic technicians hired**

- Four-year degree - 6
- Four-year degree graduates and registered dietitian
- Any recognized dietetic program
- Not sure
- Foods and business degrees - Valparaiso University

G- **Length of time required for dietetic techs hired from other backgrounds before they are fully able to perform job**

Length of Time	N	PCT
2 weeks	1	10.1
3 weeks	1	10.1
3-4 weeks	1	10.1
6 weeks	1	10.1
6-8 weeks	1	10.2
1 month	1	10.1
3 months	1	10.1
1-6 months	1	10.1
3-6 months	1	10.1
	9	100.0

One was not sure

Median time -- 7 weeks

Mean time -- 6.9 weeks

H- **Food service areas in which dietetic techs are employed**

Area	N	PCT
Clinical	9	90.0
Both clinical and administrative	1	10.0
Total	10	100.0

I- **Future outlook for dietetic technicians**

- Employer foresees a growth in the number of positions	3	30.0
- Steady state	5	50.0
- Employer foresees a cutback in the number of positions	2	20.0
Total	10	100.0

J- **Other comments from employers**

- Excellently prepared
- Very good program - enjoy the students during their clinical
- Well pleased with their training and background
- It is a pleasure to work with Harper and Harper graduates
- Very knowledgeable and well trained
- Graduates are well trained and easily adapt to the job
- Had two employees - one was outstanding, well trained, organized. The other was below average - a slow learner

A P P E N D I X

- Employer Telephone Survey Instrument
- Cover Letter and Survey Instruments

SURVEY OF EMPLOYERS OF HARPER COLLEGE

DIETETIC TECHNICIAN GRADUATES

1- How would you rate the effectiveness of Harper College Dietetic Technician graduates you have employed? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Very effective
_____ B. Effective
_____ C. Acceptable
_____ D. Borderline
_____ E. Not acceptable

2- How would they compare to graduates of other colleges you have hired? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Harper College graduates are more effective
_____ B. They are equally effective
_____ C. Graduates of other colleges are more effective than Harper graduates
_____ D. Have no basis for comparison

3- What competencies that were not possessed by Harper College Dietetic Technician graduates would you have liked them to have had?_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4- What new competencies will future Dietetic Technician graduates need to possess to be effective?_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

William Rainey Harper College
Algonquin and Roselle Roads
Palatine, Illinois 60067
312-397-3000

Spring 1988

Dear Alumnus:

To maintain approval status with the American Dietetic Association, it is necessary to have follow-up studies done on dietetic technician graduates.

Harper College, in turn, can utilize the survey results to help in improving the curriculum and course offerings of the dietetic technician program.

Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire promptly in the self-addressed envelope provided for your convenience.

Thank you for your help in responding to this request for information. Our greetings to all!

Sincerely,

Jane Allendorph, R.D.
Coordinator, Dietetic
Technician Program

JA/jc

FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF DIETETIC

TECHNICIAN GRADUATES

1- Present employment status - Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Employed full time
_____ B. Employed part time
_____ C. Not employed but seeking employment
_____ D. Not employed - homemaker
_____ E. Not employed - other reasons

2- Describe any college courses, continuing education or in-service training since leaving Harper.

College or Institution	Describe major field, type of continuing education or in-service training
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

IF YOU ARE NOT EMPLOYED, YOU MAY STOP HERE AND RETURN THE SURVEY FORM.

3- Name and address of employer: _____

_____

_____

_____

4- Job Title: _____

5- How many months have you been employed with this employer at this job? _____

6- What is your annual salary if you work full time? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. $ 7,000 - $ 7,999	_____ E. $11,000 - $11,999	_____ I. $21,000 - $25,000
_____ B. $ 8,000 - $ 8,999	_____ F. $12,000 - $15,000	_____ J. $25,000 - $30,000
_____ C. $ 9,000 - $ 9,999	_____ G. $15,000 - $18,000	_____ K. $30,000 - $40,000
_____ D. $10,000 - $10,999	_____ H. $18,000 - $21,000	_____ L. Over $40,000

If you work part time, what is your hourly rate? _____ per hour

7- How did you find your present job? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. The Coordinator helped me.
_____ B. A Clinical Instructor helped me.
_____ C. A contact made in the clinical lab courses helped me get the job.
_____ D. Other (specify) _____

_____

_____

8- How difficult was it for you to find a job? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. I had my job lined up before I graduated.
_____ B. I found my job fairly easily after graduation.
_____ C. I found a job, but only with much difficulty.

IF YOU CHECKED "C", PLEASE ANSWER THE NEXT QUESTION - CHECK (✓) ALL THAT APPLY

9- _____ A. I am married and unable to relocate.
_____ B. I do not live within commuting distance of a hospital or other health care agency where there are jobs.
_____ C. I am not interested at this time in a hospital job.
_____ D. I am not interested at this time in a nursing home job.
_____ E. I am not interested in jobs in Chicago.

10- How related is your employment to a dietetic technician's duties? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. It is identical.
_____ B. It is closely related.
_____ C. It is not related.

IF YOUR WORK IS NOT RELATED TO A DIETETIC TECHNICAN, YOU MAY STOP HERE AND RETURN THE SURVEY.

11- Do you feel your job matches what you were prepared to do? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. Yes, I feel my job allows me to practice the skills I was prepared for.
_____ B. No, I feel underemployed. I feel I am well prepared to perform the following duties which I cannot do on my present job. (Specify) _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

12- How satisfied are you on your job? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. I am very satisfied.
_____ B. I am satisfied.
_____ C. It is bearable.
_____ D. I am dissatisfied and am looking for other employment.

13- What are your activities in professional associations? Check the appropriate activity for each.

Association	Active Member	Pay Dues Only	Not a Member
American Dietetic Association	_____	_____	_____
State Dietetic Association	_____	_____	_____
DMA - Dietary Managers Association	_____	_____	_____
DMA - Certified	_____	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____	_____

14- For 1986 Graduates --

Are you a registered dietetic technician?

_____ A. Yes

_____ B. No

If not, why not?

_____ C. Too expensive

_____ D. Not needed for my current job

_____ E. Not employed as a dietetic technician

_____ F. Other (specify)_____

_____

_____

_____

For 1987 Graduates --

Did you take the national examination to become a registered dietetic technician?

_____ G. Yes, and passed it

_____ H. Yes, but did not pass

_____ I. No

If not, why not?

_____ J. Do not like taking exams

_____ K. Too expensive

_____ L. Not needed on my present job

_____ M. Not employed as a dietetic technician

_____ N. Other (specify)_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

15- Look over the following job descriptions and indicate what duties you perform and how well prepared you feel in each area.

CLIENT FOCUS	I Perform This duty Often	I Perform This duty Occasionally	I never Perform This Duty	I feel Very well Prepared in This area	I feel Adequately Prepared in This area	I feel Inadequately Prepared in This area
1- Identifies individuals with special nutrition needs from total client/patient population using predetermined criteria.						
2- Obtains nutritionally relevant data from medical history of individual clients/ patients at the direction of the dietition.						
3- Obtains nutritionally relevant demographic data (e.g., age, socioeconomic background) from individual clients/patients at the direction of the dietician.						
4- Obtains nutritionally relevant anthropometric (body measurement) data from individual clients/patients at the direction of the dietitian.						
5- Obtains nutritionally relevant laboratory data (e.g., complete blood count, serum cholesterol) from medical record for individual client/patient at the direction of the dietitian.						
6- Obtains nutrition history or diet history from individual client/patient at the direction of the dietitian.						
7- Calculates nutrient and energy intake values (e.g., information from 24-hour recall, diet history) for individual client/patients at the direction of the dietitian.						
8- Documents nutrition-related data in the medical record (where regulations permit) or in records of clinical dietetic department at the direction of the dietitian.						
9- Determines appropriate source(s) of specific nutrients (e.g., food, food products) for individual clients/patients.						

15- Continued

CLIENT FOCUS (continued)	I Perform This duty Often	I Perform This duty Occasionally	I never Perform This Duty	I feel Very well Prepared in This area	I feel Adequately Prepared in This area	I feel Inadequately Prepared in This area
10- Develops diet patterns for individual clients/patients.						
11- Writes menus for individual clients/ patients in accordance with a diet pattern, including making appropriate substitutions.						
12- Designs nutrition care plans (e.g., specifying diet, counseling) for individual clients/patients at the direction of the dietitian.						
13- Documents nutrition care plans for individual clients/patients in the medical record (where regulations permit) or in records of clinical dietetic department at the direction of the dietitian.						
14- Communicates plan for nutrition care to individual client/patient and/or to individual client's/patient's family at the direction of the dietitian.						
15- Communicates plan for individual client's/ patient's nutrition care to health team members at the direction of the dietitian.						
16- Communicates to appropriate personnel (e.g., foodservice, nursing, pharmacy, central supply) the specific actions required to implement individual client's/ patient's nutrition care plan at the direction of the dietitian.						
17- Assures implementation of nutrition prescriptions for individual clients/ patients (e.g., checking menus, diet orders, trays, nourishments).						
18- Documents nutrition care of individual clients/patients in the medical record (where regulations permit) or in records of clinical dietetic department.						

15- Continued

CLIENT FOCUS (continued)	I Perform This duty Often	I Perform This duty Occasionally	I never Perform This Duty	I feel Very well Prepared in This area	I feel Adequately Prepared in This area	I feel Inadequately Prepared in This area
19- Monitors individual client's/patient's compliance with or tolerance of diet prescriptions at the direction of the dietitian.						
20- Obtains relevant data regarding individual client's/patient's response to food (e.g. plate waste, calorie count).						
21- Evaluates individual client's/patient's acceptance or tolerance of food.						
22- Monitors outcomes of nutrition care for individual clients/patients at the direction of the dietitian.						
23- Revises nutrition care plans for individual clients/patients at the direction of the dietitian.						
24- Provides technical support for implementing and maintaining nutrition education processes (e.g., maintains files of materials for dissemination).						
25- Selects nutrition education materials or exhibits for clients/patients						
26- Schedules nutrition education for clients/patients, including time, place, personnel.						
27- Counsels individual clients/patients or small groups concerning nutrition concepts and desired change in eating habits.						
28- Present classes and lectures in basic nutrition to small groups of clients/patients according to an established plan.						
29- Evaluates effectiveness of nutrition education events for clients/patients.						
30- Documents individual client's/patient's response to nutrition education in the medical record (where regulations permit) or in records of clinical dietetic department at the direction of the dietitian.						

15- Continued

	I Perform This duty Often	I Perform This duty Occasionally	I never Perform This Duty	I feel Very well Prepared in This area	I feel Adequately Prepared in This area	I feel Inadequately Prepared in This area
CLIENT FOCUS (continued)						
31- Arranges for follow-up or terminates nutrition care of individual clients/ patients in consultation with a dietitian.						
INTER-PROFESSIONAL FOCUS						
1- Promotes positive working relationships with others whose work relates to area of responsibility.						
2- Communicates with health team (e.g., physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers) on client's/patient's nutrition care.						
INTRA-ORGANIZATIONAL FOCUS						
1- Reviews menus for client/patient acceptance						
2- Monitors food quality based on established criteria.						
3- Conducts patient satisfaction/food acceptance interviews.						
4- Checks trays routinely for accuracy						
5- Informs health care team, in consultation with a dietitian, about laws, regulations, and professional guidelines related to nutrition care.						
6- Maintains cost-containment processes (e.g., productivity measures, staffing, allocations of food and supplies) while preserving quality.						
7- Implements Quality Assurance (QA) program procedures for patient care and delivery of nutrition services to clients/patients.						

15- Continued

	I Perform This duty Often	I Perform This duty Occasionally	I never Perform This Duty	I feel Very well Prepared in This area	I feel Adequately Prepared in This area	I feel Inadequately Prepared in This area
INTRA-ORGANIZATIONAL FOCUS						
8- Collects Quality Assurance (QA) program data at the direction of the dietitian.						
9- Collects data for analysis of costs and benefits of nutrition intervention.						
10- Implements orientation/training program for support personnel assigned to clinical dietetic functions.						
11- Supervises support personnel assigned to clinical dietetic functions.						
12- Evaluates performance of support personnel assigned to clinical dietetic functions.						
INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL FOCUS						
1- Obtains information regarding programs and/or sources of outside funding related to the provision of nutrition care for individual clients/patients in consultation with dietitian.						
2- Obtains information on nutrition-related legislative issues.						

LONG TERM FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF DIETETIC

TECHNICIAN GRADUATES - 1983 AND EARLIER

1- List your employment positions held since graduation from Harper College. List your current or latest position first.

Dates Held Position	Job Title	Name/Address of Employer

If you have not been employed since graduating from Harper, check (✓) here _____

2- What is your annual salary if you work Full Time? Check (✓) one.

_____ A. $ 7,000 - $ 7,999
_____ B. $ 8,000 - $ 8,999
_____ C. $ 9,000 - $ 9,999
_____ D. $10,000 - $10,999
_____ E. $11,000-$11,999
_____ F. $12,000-$15,000
_____ G. $15,000-$18,000
_____ H. $18,000-$21,000
_____ I. $21,000-$25,000
_____ J. $25,000-$30,000
_____ K. $30,000-$40,000
_____ L. $40,000-$50,000
_____ M. Over $50,000

If you work Part Time, what is your hourly rate? _____ per hour

3- Have you been promoted since graduating from Harper?

_____ A. Yes, by a single employer. Describe the promotion and job title change. _____

_____ B. Yes, by moving from one employer to another. Describe the move and job title change. _____

_____ C. Yes, but the promotion was due to advanced education received at another college attended since graduating from Harper College.

_____ D. No, I have not been promoted

4- Describe how you have continued your education since graduating from Harper College.

_____ A. Have not continued my education since graduating from Harper.

_____ B. Have continued my education since graduating from Harper as follows:

College Attended	Major Field	Degree Rec'd, If Any

5- Are you a registered dietetic technician?

_____ A. Yes

_____ B. No

If not, why not?

_____ C. Too expensive

_____ D. Not needed on my current job.

_____ E. Not employed as a dietetic technician

_____ F. Other (specify) _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU for responding to this survey.

ERIC Clearinghouse for
Junior Colleges
SEP 15 1989